

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

**Holy Hour for April 2013
Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
Lumen Gentium, 21 November 1964**



In proclaiming Christ the light of humanity may we the Church always strive to ensure that his light shines in every corner of the world.

As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'

'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'

Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favour on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity by Christ light, just as by him they came into being.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Reader 1:

'Christ is the light of humanity; and it is accordingly, the heart-felt desire of this sacred Council., being gathered together in the Holy Spirit, that, by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature (CF MK.16:15), it may bring to all people the light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church...The Church is, accordingly, a sheepfold, the sole and necessary gateway to which is Christ (Jn.10:1-10). It is also a flock, of which God foretold that he would himself be shepherd (Is.40:11: Ex.34:11), and whose sheep, although watched over by human shepherds, are nevertheless at all times led and brought to pasture by Christ himself...The Church is a cultivated field, the tillage of God (1 Cor.3:9)...on that land the ancient olive tree grows...that land, like a choice vineyard, has been planted by the heavenly cultivator. Yet the true vine is Christ...Often, too, the Church is called the building of God. The Lord compared himself to the stone which the builders rejected, but which was made into the cornerstone...'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.
Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) Nos 1,6)*

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

Reader 2:

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 5:1-7 (*Lectionary I, pg 708*)

'THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

I AM THE HOLY VINE

Divine Office I, Hymn for Friday Morning Prayer (Week II)

Alternative original: MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

Celebration For Everyone No 503/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 487/ Laudate No 752

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God providence and care.

Reader 1:

'Just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression, so the Church is called to follow the same path if she is to communicate the fruits of salvation... Christ Jesus, "though he was by nature God...emptied himself, taking the nature of a slave"(Phil.2:6,7), and "being rich, became poor" (2 Cor.8:9) for our sake. Likewise, the Church, although she needs human resources to carry out her mission, is not set up to seek earthly glory, but to proclaim, and this by her own example, humility and self-denial. Christ was sent by the Father "to bring good news to the poor...to heal the contrite of heart" (Lk.4:18), "to seek and save what was lost"(Lk.19:10). Similarly, the Church encompasses with her love all those who are afflicted by human misery and she recognises in those who are poor and who suffer, the image of her poor and suffering founder. She does all in her power to relieve their need and in them she strives to serve Christ.'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.
Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) No 8)*

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

Reader 2

SECOND READING

APOCALYPSE 21:1-8 (*Lectionary III, pg 182*)

‘I, JOHN, SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION

Celebration For Everyone No 688 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 647/ Laudate No 830

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of the Church.

Reader 1:

‘The pastors, indeed, know well how much the laity contribute to the welfare of the whole Church. For they know that they themselves were not established by Christ to undertake alone the whole salvific mission of the Church to the world, but that it is their exalted office so to be shepherds of the faithful and also recognise the latter’s contribution and charisms that everyone in his own way will, with one mind, cooperate in the common task. For all must “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and up-builds itself in love.” (Eph. 4:15-16)’

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.
Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) No 30)*

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:13-16 (*Lectionary III, pg 82*)

‘YOUR LIGHT MUST SHINE IN THE SIGHT OF MEN.’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

LONGING FOR LIGHT

Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 439/ Laudate No 883

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of the Church.

Leader:

In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.

*Response to each prayer: **Lord, strengthen the faith of your people***

Reader 2:

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Guide your Church and help her to remain always in union with Christ’s mission to be the light of the nations. We pray to the Lord
- Strengthen all the members of the Church and especially bless the tireless work and ministry of the laity. May their witness to Christ make every member of the Church aware of the co-responsibility we hold for the life of the body of Christ, the Church. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to those who have wandered far from the loving embrace of Church you care, safety and mercy. May those who seek you find you in the Church; in the loving embrace of her motherly care and in her manifestation of your ever patient Fatherly devotion. We pray to the Lord
- May the Church be a sign of your peace to the world and may the world come to know and experience through her the fulfilment of your longed for peace and justice. We pray to the Lord
- Help those members of your Church who are suffering because they bear the name of Christ and give to them patience and relief. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to the dead eternal life. We pray to the Lord

BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Celebration For Everyone No 703 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 657/ Laudate No 747